



NEWS

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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Demolition crews start clearing way for US 41 Corridor Expansion

Former Howard Johnson Hotel in Oshkosh is coming down

(Green Bay) Outside the empty Howard Johnson Hotel on Omro Road in Oshkosh, heavy machinery is staging for an eight-week demolition project that passing motorists might not give a second thought. But all the bulldozers and dump trucks assembled near the US 41/WIS 21 interchange are playing a small role in a much bigger project, which drivers in Winnebago County will have to maneuver through until 2016 and benefit from for many years after.

"You could think of this work as the start of the expansion of US 41 from four to six lanes," said Mike Berg, Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) NE Region Director. "While it's not the official kick-off, everyone needs to realize this project is coming."

The multi-million dollar project is huge and complex. Beginning in fall of 2009 and running through 2016, 31-miles of US 41 in Brown and Winnebago counties will be reconstructed. The US 41 project will add a lane of traffic to the freeway, upgrade 16 interchanges and install 45 roundabouts to accommodate the region's growing traffic demands through 2035.

"This will be the largest road construction project ever in Northeast Wisconsin and after years of planning, preliminary work is finally getting underway," said Berg.

The demolition underway involves the removal of a car wash, hotel, restaurant, and other businesses on roughly five acres of property on both sides of US 41 at WIS 21, to make way for utility work at the location. The WIS 21 interchange is being rebuilt in 2012 and includes four roundabouts. The interchange will be reconstructed so that WIS 21 passes over US 41.

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[Winnebago-All; Brown, Outagamie – Media]

NOTE: News releases can be viewed on the Web at: www.dot.wisconsin.gov/news/index.htm.